

# MEMOIRS OF DONN R. CLAYBAUGH'S NAVY LIFE DURING WW-II

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## 1943

Enlisted in United States Navy as A.S. (Apprentice Seaman) on February 15, 1943.  
Went to U.S.N.T.S. (U.3. Naval Training Station) in San Diego, Calif. on March 4.  
Left "Boot Camp" in San Diego as S1/c. Was in Company 43-87. May 11.  
Arrived at Naval Torpedo Station in Keyport, Wash. on May 15.  
Graduated from Keyport as S1/c August 7.  
On leave August 7th to August 16th. At home.  
Arrived in San Francisco August 18th. Sent to Treasure Island Receiving Station until 19th.  
On Goat Island (Yerba Buena) from August 19 to September 6.  
On board S.S. Tabinta, a Dutch freighter, from Sept. 6 to Sept. 28.  
Went to Tahiti, then New Caledonia. At R.S. Noumea, Navy Base for three weeks.  
On transport, U.3.3. Pinkney Oct. 19 to Oct. 21. Went to Havanah Harbor, New Hebrides.  
On yard oiler to Efate Harbor, New Hebrides.  
On transport 3.3. John Bartram Oct.. 21 to go back to Havanah.  
On banana barge to Efate.  
Boarded U.3.3. Hudson at Efate, Oct. 21, 1943. Back to Havanah Oct. 22.  
Arrived in Tulagi next.  
In Task Force 31 for Bougainville Invasion Nov. 1. First action seen.  
To Guadalcanal for Transports, then back to Bougainville. Made several trips to Bougainville & Treasury Island during November.  
Ran aground in Russel Islands about Nov. 20th  
Went to Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides on Dec 1 to dry docks & had screws fixed.  
Dec. 19-20, Convoy duty in Solomons to Bougainville Met no opposition.  
Dec. 21, Saw Munda & Rendova, scene of most bitter fighting of war so far.  
Dec. 22, Saw Vella La Vella, pretty island.  
Dec. 25, Ate Christmas dinner off Bougainville. Had Army rations.  
Dec. 26, Had regular Christmas dinner.

## 1944

Jan. 5, Bougainville again. Caught convoy at Russels on 4th.  
Jan. 4 to 15, Trips to Bougainville.  
Jan. 15, To Rendova with PT's.

Jan. 24, Patrolled within 25-miles of New Ireland, furthest north we've been. No Opposition.

Jan. 25, Bombarded Buka off Bougainville.

Jan. 29, Anchored off New Georgia.

Jun. 30, To Green Island with New Zealand Raiders.

Jan. 31, Back to Green for Raiders. Sunk sub on way back.

Feb 1, Bombarded Buka.

Feb. 2, Got Marines from Guadalcanal. Bombarded Kolombangara Island. Set record for most shells fired in a limited time.

Feb. 4, Got war souvenirs on island.

Feb. 5, shot at sleeves. Five ships with six sleeves, got five of them and fired last.

Feb. 15, Captured Green Island.

Feb. 20, Took large convoy to Green Island.

Feb. 22, Back to Purvis Bay, Guadalcanal.

Feb. 23, Underway patrol duty around Rabaul & St. Georgia Channel. Patrolled to northern tip of New Ireland. Sunk tug & barges.

Feb. 28, Patrol duty north of equator in Carolines.

Feb. 28, Patrol Duty around Truk.

Feb. 26 to March 8, In port at Tulagi.

March 10, At Bougainville Strait on sub sweep. Used 44 depth charges. Sunk 1 sub. Bombarded barges attempting to evacuate officers from Bougainville.

March 15. Took LST'S to Green Island. Dropped six charges.

March 22-29, In task force to Imarau. North of Kavieng.

April-May, In convoy to Sidney, Australia to prepare for invasion.

June 8, Arrived at Roi Island.

June 10, Left Roi for Guam.

June 13, Arrived at Saipan & Tinian. Bombarded & dive bombed, but no resistance.

June 15, Marines landed. Light resistance. Slight air attacks.

June 16, Arrived at Guam. Left same morning to engage enemy fleet.

June 19, Fought greatest air battle of war in Philippine seas. Two men killed, 5 injured, 3 ships hit. Shot down 747 Jap planes in one day.

June 20, Within 400 miles of Tokyo, very close to China coast.

June 25, Left Saipan with heavy cruisers & convoy.

June 26-July 17, Between Saipan & Guam. Bombarded Guam.

July 13, Left for Guam.

July 21, Invasion of Guam. No air resistance. Troop casualties light. Advance steady.

July 27, Picked up 4 native enlisted men who escaped in small Japanese boat. Guamanese.

July 29, Japs committing-Hari-Kari off cliff at Guam.

August 12, Left Guam for Eniwetock.

August 24, Arrived in Esperita Santo, then to Purvis Bay for maneuvers.

Sept. 6, Left Purvis for Palau.

Sept. 14, Invaded Palau after bombardment. Shells close over heads.  
Sept. 28, Arrived at Manus Admiralties.  
Oct. 5, Left Manus for Pearl Harbor.  
Oct. 14, Arrived in Pearl Harbor.  
Oct. 15, Left for United States.  
Oct. 21, Arrived in San Francisco, Calif.  
On leave for twenty-one days. At home.  
Reported back to San Francisco Nov. 11. Was there while Hudson was being repaired at shipyards.  
Left San Francisco first part of December, arrived in San Diego.  
Left San Diego Dec. 18 for Pearl Harbor.  
Arrived Pearl Harbor Dec. 24.  
Saw brother, Carl in Pearl Christmas Day.

## 1945

Jan. 27, Left Pearl for Eniwetok.  
Feb. 5, Arrived in Eniwetok.  
Feb. 7, Left for Pagan for picket duty  
Feb. 15, Arrived in Saipan.  
Feb. 16, Left for Iwo Jima.  
Feb. 19, Arrived and invaded Iwo Jima. Very hard fight. Many air raids and much bombardment. Most fortified place in world. 6th Star.  
Feb. 24, Shot down Jap plane. Air raids almost every night.  
Feb. 28, Jap Betty flew over fantail.  
March 1,& 2, Bombarded Iwo Jima.  
March 6, Left for Guam.  
March 8, 3-29 crashed into sea killing 6 men outright. Picked up 6 men, 2 died on board. Headed for Saipan. At 10:30 or 11:00 P.M. Hubert Stephen DeWitt sustained electrical shock which caused his death at 2:30 A.M. March 9, 1945.  
Escorted body to beach.- The loss of the best friend I ever had.  
March 10, Left for Guam.  
March 11, Arrived and 1--L't for Ulithi.  
March 12, Arrived and left for Leyte.  
March 15, Arrived in Leyte.  
March 18-21, Picket duty in Surigao Strait.  
March 22-26, Availability in Leyte Harbor.  
March 27, Left for Okinawa after taking part in rehearsals for invasion of Okinawa.  
April 1.. Arrived at Okinawa, Ryukyus Islands.  
April 2. Picket duty 62 miles NW off Okinawa. Sunk two barges.  
April 5, Picket duty 62 miles NW off Okinawa. sunk one mine.  
April 6, Picket duty 62 miles SW off Okinawa. Sunk sub and one plane.  
April 7-22, Picket duty around island. Several air raids and plenty of excitement.  
Lots of destroyers getting hit and we were wondering when our time was coming.

April 22, A Kamikaze suicide plane hit the ship and slightly damaged us, but failed to Crash it. It's wing hit forecastle as it was banking. Crashed into the sea ten feet from ship One Casualty, Dinwiddie injured.

April 23, Air raids developing. Relieved on picket duty and proceeded to base. Arrived at Keramo Retto for repairs.

May 4, Back on picket station. A plane shot down crashed into the escort carrier, U.S.S. Sangamon which burned fiercely. We pulled alongside and fought the fires until it was under control. The ship received considerable damage.

May 10, Left for Guam to undergo repairs.

June 22, Repairs completed. Returned to Okinawa and operated in vicinity of Nakagusuki Wan.

July 1, Left for Eniwetok, Marshall Islands.

July to August, Were on convoy duty between Eniwetok and other bases.

August 11, Left for Adak, Aleutian Islands for duty in North Pacific area.

August 31, Left Adak and went to Ominato in the Northern Honshu and Hokkaido area of Japan for occupation.

Sept. 7, Arrived in Japan. Stayed about two weeks.

Sept. 21, Left for Adak and stayed for two or three weeks.

Oct. 1, Left for Kodiak and stayed until Oct. 20th.

Oct. 27, Were in Skagway for Navy Day.

Nov. 1, Left for Kodiak.

Nov. 5, Arrived in Kodiak.

Nov. 10, Left Kodiak for Seattle, Washington.

Nov. 13, Was discharged from Hudson. Went to PAL barracks in Seattle. Went to Receiving Sta. in Seattle and stayed for three days.

Nov. 16, Was sent to Bremerton, Washington.

Nov. 19, Got on an Army transport and went to San Francisco,

Nov. 21, Arrived in San Francisco. Stayed an hour.

Nov. 22, Arrived in San Pedro. Went to Terminal Island Receiving Station.

Nov. 25, 1945. Was honorably discharged from U.S.N.R. (United States Naval Reserves.)